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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

I am writing in response to your request for comments regarding proposed additional security measures for the ferry system.

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As a frequent passenger on the Bainbridge run, I am convinced that security measures (after the fashion of airline security) not only are unrealistic but are a needless cost to taxpayers.

Considering that a commuter run may carry 2000 foot passengers and three hundred automobiles, how can one even consider that type of screening and still run a ferry every 50 minutes?

It is amazing to me that this kind of screening would be considered all the while ferries have been allowed to sit unattended during their idle hours from 2:00 AM to 5:00 AM. How difficult would it be for someone to plant a device aboard a ferry, either by a diver under water or above board while it sits there in the dark, idle, with no security?

If we are intent on adding additional security, that which would make a whole lot more sense to me would be to ensure that idle ferries are protected and that trucks and trailers are inspected before they board. I have seen U-Haul trucks and trailers, as well as commercial trucks, happily drive on board with no apparent notice given them by ferry employees or state troopers. Early on, when there was some type of checking of vehicles taking place, every fourteenth vehicle was approached! Every fourteenth vehicle for Pete's sake!! The little gray haired lady in the Subaru had her car checked while the white delivery truck in front of her boarded unheeded!

Meanwhile, if a terrorist was intent on boarding a ferry, I believe he or she would accomplish it, with or without added security. I believe that ferry personnel, as well as the general ferry riding public, need to be alert and watchful, but to suggest that airline type screening is the answer for our ferries is totally unrealistic.

My vote is that before we undertake to do massive additional screening we fill in the obvious holes in our security. It would make a whole lot more sense and cost the public a whole lot less.

Sincerely,



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